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REMARKSRECEIVED
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DEC 11 2006**I. Status of the Application**

This paper responds to a Non-Final Office Action mailed September 11, 2006. This paper cancels claims 4-8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications to claim any canceled or unclaimed subject matter.

II. Amendment of Claims 1, 2, and 3

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite the administration of sildenafil or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. Applicant has also amended dependent claims 2 and 3 to recite sildenafil and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

III. Objections to the Specification

Several minor informalities were noted in the Office Action. Applicant has amended the specification to correct these informalities exactly as suggested in the Office Action.

In view of the above Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

IV. Rejection of Claim 5 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has canceled claim 5 thereby rendering this rejection moot.

V. Rejection of Claims 1-6, and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not reasonably providing enablement for alleviating pain or spasticity in a patient suffering from spinal cord injury with all cGMP PDE5 inhibitors. It is further stated in the Office Action that the specification is enabled for alleviating pain or spasticity in a patient suffering from a spinal cord injury with sildenafil. Applicant has amended claim 1 to define a method for alleviating pain or spasticity in a patient suffering from spinal cord injury by administering sildenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

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VI. Rejection of claims 1 and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jain et al. in view of Cardenas et al. It is stated in the Office Action that Jain et al. teach that sildenafil is useful in the treatment of pain. The Examiner admits that Jain et al. do not specifically teach that sildenafil treats pain associated with spinal cord injury, but states that Cardenas et al. teach that chronic pain is associated with spinal cord injury. Thus, as stated in the Office Action, one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the teachings of Jain et al. with Cardenas et al. "because the prior art teaches that sildenafil treats pain and spinal cord injury is associated with pain."

Applicant submits that the claims of the invention are patentable over Jain et al. and Cardenas et al. Although Jain et al. teach that "sildenafil exhibits antinociceptive activity against acetic acid-induced writhing and carrageenan-induced hyperalgesia in mice and rats, respectively...sildenafil did not alter the nociceptive threshold in the tail-flick and hot-plate assays." Jain et al. at page 176. In other words, Jain et al. teach that sildenafil demonstrated antinociceptive activity in only two of the four animal models of pain utilized in their study. Jain et al. are silent regarding whether these animal models can be correlated with reflect pain associated with spinal cord injury.

Cardenas et al. teach that chronic pain is associated with spinal cord injury. Cardenas et al. only describe the duration (chronic) of the pain associated with spinal cord injury and provides no teaching or suggestion that sildenafil may be used to alleviate pain or spasticity in a patient suffering from spinal cord injury. Furthermore, neither Jain et al. nor Cardenas et al. teach or suggest treating spasticity in patient suffering from spinal cord injury either with or without sildenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jain et al. in view of Cardenas et al. and further in view of Maw et al.

With regard to the oral administration (claim 2) and dosage (claim 3), Applicant respectfully submits that the Maw et al. reference does not render obvious the treatment of pain or spasticity in a patient suffering from spinal cord injury by the administration of sildenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and therefore does not make up for the deficiencies in either the Jain et al or the Cardenas et al references.

Claims 4-8 have been canceled rendering this objection moot.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3.

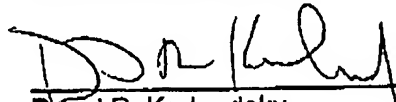
VI. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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